rates for the funds held for labour welfare like the ESIC and Provident Fund;

(c) whether any effort is being made to review this situation;

(d) the details thereof;

(e) what would, be the impact on welfare schemes due to lesser interest rates in future; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The surplus ESI Fund is required to be invested as per provisions of Rule 27 of the ESI (Central) Rules, 1950. Similarly,, the EPF money is required to be invested as per the pattern prescribed by the Ministry of Finance: Accordingly, the funds invested by the ESIC and EPFO have been earning interest, as made available under various instruments of the public sector banks/public financial institutions from time to time. The benefits payable under the ESI scheme, the Employees' Pension Scheme and the EDLI Scheme are based on formula prescribed under the respective Schemes and as such reduction in rate of interest is unlikely to have any serious impact on their disbursement. However, the ESIC and the EPFO are monitoring the situation in view of general reduction in interest rates and will take appropriate steps to augment their resources as and when necessary so as to ensure continuity of payment of benefits as provided under the rules/schemes.

Wage Revision in Public Enterprises

572. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Central Public Sector Enterprises where the wage revision is due since January, 1997 and before; and

(b) what is Government decision on the question of new wage revision settlements in the Enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Wage revision in most of the operating PSUs were done from the respective dates of 1.1.82 (5th Round of Wage Negotiation) and 1.1.97 (6th Round of Wage Negotiation). Government issued guidelines dated 12.4.93, 17.1.94 (for 5th Round) and 14.1.99 (for 6th Round) to this effect. These are now to be implemented by the respective Managements of PSUs, as they have been granted autonomy in this regard. No centralized monitoring is done in this matter. With regard to the new wage settlement (for 6th round of Wage negotiation only) in the enterprises, it has been decided by the Government to permit the PSUs to either opt for 5 years periodicity on wage revision with graded D,A. neutralization or 10 years periodicity with 100% D.A. neutralization.

Job Opportunities

† 573. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to create job opportunities for educated and uneducated, skilled and unskilled youths in Bihar during Ninth Five-Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) *if not,* the reasons therefor and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF, STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The Primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment *in* the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has been set up to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million job in a period of 10 years (Ten million in each years). These measures will inter-alia, also help unemployed persons of Bihar.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.